



Bulletin

MAYOR'S MESSAGE: *Where is Flood Hazard Reduction in Burlington Headed?* Mayor "Gus" Tjeerdsma

Burlington is once again facing difficult times and tough questions with respect to "How High Will The Water Get?" That question was asked and answered when the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were adopted on January 3, 1985, following an intense debate and compromise by local and federal officials. Today that debate has started all over again.

What are the key components of the proposal to raise flood elevations in Burlington by 6 feet at Interstate 5? It appears that there are two sides to the issue.

One is the big question of whether there will really be 240,000 cubic feet per second coming down the Skagit River and into the flats. This is the Hydrology question and the debate over the following elements:

- Larry Kunzler has exposed the flaws in the Stewart report on the 1921 flood and a wall section from a house in Hamilton will be studied to see if on the ground data supports the position that Stewart was wrong. Other technical analysis of floods demonstrates that the data is incorrect, but nothing has not been accepted by Federal agencies.
- Puget Sound Energy, not the Corps of Engineers, regulates Lower Baker Dam and they are needed to help provide storage of floodwater during

flood peaks, but are not yet on board with this program. Because Lower Baker Dam is old and does not meet current seismic standards, the Corps has given no credit for storage at this location in their figures.

- Nookachamps Creek is assumed to produce a lot more water than it can, since its headwaters don't even extend to Lake Cavanaugh, so the amount of flood storage in the Nookachamps that is actually occurring is not given credit.

The other side is, assuming there is that much water coming to the area, and they did in the studies that led to the 1985 Flood Insurance Rate Maps that are in use today, how do they arrive at a completely different result in Burlington, with a six foot increase in flood height at Interstate 5?

- The Corps of Engineers has used a new computer model.



11/9/06—Home surrounded by flood waters on Lafayette Road, east of Burlington, north of Highway 20

Public release of the proposed new flood maps will happen as soon as the Federal Emergency Management Agency decides their review and approval is complete and they are satisfied with the work. It is not too late for them to change their position, although the Agency has signaled it will not change. This will put the community in the position of having to appeal the flood maps.

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Special points of interest:

- *What is going on with FEMA?*
- *FREE Christmas tree disposal for residents inside Burlington city limits*
- *Harvest Festival results & pictures*
- *Scrapbooking—upcoming All Day Crops*
- *Storytimes for kids 18 months to 7 years*
- *New City website information*

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Better Safe than Sorry!

Jon T. Aarstad, City Administrator

Recently the Skagit River threw another scare into our community with the real threat of a flood event in early November. The City of Burlington, Dike and Drainage District #12, Skagit County and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers worked together to develop a flood fight program to insure the safety of the citizens of Burlington and to remove the threat of real property loss within our community. Many factors play into the decisions that emerge during the initial notification of an upcoming flood event. However, the primary indicators used to determine a flood event are the long range and short term weather reports we receive from the weather service.

During this most recent flood event, cities and dike districts were assembled at the 911 Center to meet with the Area Command from Skagit County to report on the pending storm occurrence and to review the predictions of a record breaking flood of the Skagit River. At this time everyone was planning for the possibility of a necessary evacuation of our respective cities, the formation of sandbagging crews, procurement of supplies, patrolling the dikes of the Skagit River, closure of roads and controlling the rumors that surround an emergency situation.

Several meetings were scheduled during the flood preparation and watch process to keep everyone abreast of the latest weather reports and the conditions of the dikes in our valley. Early on all weather reports and river gages indicated we would be experiencing a record flood event. Consequently, the Mayor and staff of the City of Burlington had to determine if it would be proper to call for an all out evacuation of the citizens of Burlington. Of greatest concern at the immediate moment were our local resident home care facilities and their respective needs for the proper evacuation of their special care residents. The evacuation of these facilities is far more complicated for logistical reasons. Staff from the City contacted all of these special facilities and warned them of a possible evacuation.

Our second concern was the determination of a closure of the schools. Should a flood occur and the students needed to be returned to their home there may not be a parent or guardian to care for them should the river run over the levees.

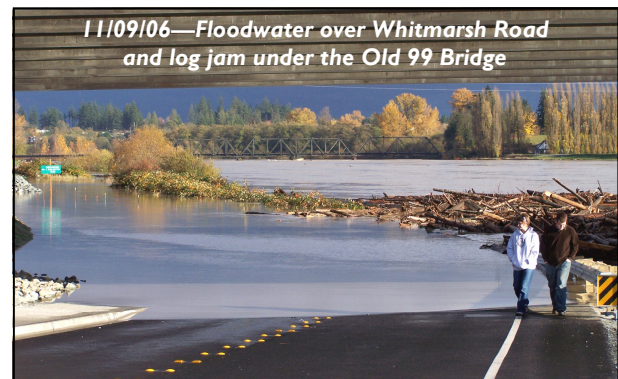
And the third concern required us to alert 8,200 city residents of a pending flood and manage the evacuation of these citizens. At our 7:00 pm Monday evening flood meeting the Area Command stated that all weather indicators predicted the flooding in the lower valley would occur on Tuesday at 4:00 pm and we should begin an

evacuation notification process on Tuesday morning. We were prepared to proceed with the evacuation notification as directed; however, the unpredictability of the weather began to enter into the flood event. The winds driving the storm shifted and began to move the storm southward which reduced the volume of rain in the three major watersheds and multiple creeks and streams that feed the Skagit River. The Skagit River began to recede in the upper valley and the decision to evacuate was put on hold and eventually was removed altogether.

The point I want to make is the unpredictability of the storms create a great deal of tension for those who are responsible for your safety. We may make an early call for an evacuation as we did in 2003, but it is done solely for your safety and the safety of your fellow citizens. No one likes to disrupt a nursing home, schools, families or businesses, however the alternative is equally disrupting should a dike break or water overflows into our community. We have to use the best available data to make these decisions and plan for the worst occurrence. In the minds of those who have to make the call it is far better to "Be Safe than Sorry".

In the future if you would like to receive current information regarding a flood event you can contact the Skagit County Flood Information Hot Line at (360) 419-3425, check the National Weather Service link or join the County's "List Serve" at www.skagitcounty.net, click on Departments and Offices, scroll down to Emergency Management and click, then click on "Current Emergency Information on the left side of the screen and your final step is to click on "Join The List". You will receive the most recent information published from the Area Command Center regarding the emergency at hand. Other options include calling the Burlington City Hall at (360) 755-0531 and listening to KAPS 660 AM or KBRC 1430 AM.

There are so many people to thank for their unselfish efforts to provide a positive service to the public. I want to thank the staff and Volunteer Firefighters of the City of Burlington for their dedication to its citizens to make sure they are informed, safe and protected. Their dedication is admirable.



Municipal Court

Passports are continuing to be a great service and a good source of revenue for the city, due to the Municipal Court staff. Year to date, we have remitted over \$12,000 to the City of Burlington in fees. We are averaging \$1,200 a month, or 40 passports. There is talk of the \$30 fee being reduced to \$25 per passport in the future, but to date, nothing has changed. According to government sources, passports will be required to get into Canada by the end of 2007.



Gross revenue to date totals \$248,461.13, an increase of \$64,106.87 from 2005. We have also logged a total of 2341 hours (292.6 days) on the City Work Program so far this year. These are hours done in lieu of jail. The jail cost is \$65+ per day, a potential savings of \$19,019.00 to the city. During the last budget session, the Municipal Court and Building & Grounds departments requested a shared part time person to supervise the City Work Program as we are limited due to liability as to who we can allow on the work program if it is not supervised. Since September 20, 2006, the city has been billed for \$5,785.00, for 89 days of hard jail time, for defendants who **could** have served their time on the work crew, but because it is not supervised, had to serve their time in the Skagit County jail.

Year to date we have collected and distributed to local business owners \$3,467.84 in restitution. As a small court, we work hard to collect restitution for our local merchants and citizens. This figure does not include restitution that was paid direct to the merchants, as court ordered, for bad checks or merchandise and/or services.

Fire Department News



The Burlington Fire Department provides fire and emergency medical response not only to the citizens of Burlington, but also provides these services to Fire District #6 that surrounds the city and extends from District Line Road to the Skagit Regional Airport and north to the Skagit Speedway. We continue to see an increase in calls for service with 1,364 calls for service through October.

We currently staff the City of Burlington and the Bayview Ridge fire station with a total of 5 full-time firefighters and 41 volunteer firefighters. We have been fortunate to have been able to increase our volunteer numbers over the past two years.

We would like to welcome and congratulate our newest firefighters who just completed the Skagit County Fire Academy with high marks. We welcome aboard Steve Cole, Alex Englund, Morgan Shellhamer, Justin Ward and Scott Linn.

We have taken on a fire hydrant improvement project this year. We are testing every fire hydrant to make sure that they work when we need them. We found quite a few that needed repairs and those are being done. We also began installing quarter turn adapters to many fire hydrants that allow us to connect a fire hose and flow water for a fire in less time and with less labor involved. Our goal is to control and extinguish a fire in the shortest amount of time and reduce the loss of property as a result of a fire.

Help us find you in an emergency by maintaining your house numbers and keeping them visible. If you need the reflective numbers for your house, call us at (360) 755-0261 and we will get them to you. The reflective numbers are required by City Ordinance and help us find you. We can't help you if we can't find you.

Business Licenses



As the Holidays near, new businesses appear!

All businesses, big and small, conducting business within the City limits, must contact City Hall.

Per our Code (BMC 5.04.090) it is your duty, so please stop by we won't be snooty.

Applications are available in our office or online.

You may visit www.ci.burlington.wa.us for more details and check out our new web page design!

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3 and we hope that you agree, but please call City Hall at (360) 755-0531 for your annual fee. Come prepared with your State UBI and we can make it a snap. Registering your business with Burlington will keep you on the map.



Library Building Update

Next time you visit the Burlington Public Library, take a walk around the construction site at Holly and Washington streets to see how the new building is progressing. We anticipate a Grand Opening Celebration in June 2007.

So far, contractors have been busy:

- Completing initial site preparation; pouring sidewalks
- Pouring foundation
- Installing trusses
- Framing; exterior and interior
- Constructing the roof
- Wiring
- Plumbing

Visit our website for photos:

www.ci.burlington.wa.us → Departments → Library → Library Information → Library Building Project → New Building Photos.

Major Donors Announced

The Burlington Library Foundation is thrilled to announce several major donations to benefit the new library, which is slated to open in June 2007. To date, the following service clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals have reserved "named gifts" of \$1,000 or more to the library:

▪ Burlington Rotary	<i>Community Meeting Room</i>
▪ Burlington-Edison Kiwanis	<i>Computer Lab</i>
▪ Burlington Mid-day Rotary	<i>Fireplace Reading Area</i>
▪ Oasys Office Systems	<i>Copy Center</i>
▪ Skagit State Bank	<i>Children's Feature</i>
▪ Skagit River Steel	<i>Large Print Collection</i>
▪ Stowe Family	<i>Reading Nook</i>
▪ Burlington Soroptimists	<i>Inside Bench</i>
▪ Wilder Construction	<i>Outside Bench</i>
▪ Dick and Bev Harrington	<i>Outside Bench</i>
▪ Land Title Company	<i>TBD</i>
▪ Summit Bank	<i>Bike Rack</i>
▪ Friends of the Library	<i>Children's Storytime Door</i>

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Fall / Winter Storytimes

Toddler Time:

TUESDAYS

10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

January 9—March 27, 2007

Brief stories, nursery rhymes, songs with ASL signs and fingerplays to hold your 18 month to 3 year-old toddler's attention.



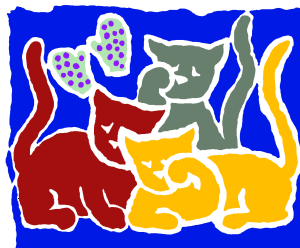
Preschool Storytime:

THURSDAYS

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

January 11—March 29, 2007

Captivating stories, songs and flannel boards, poems, and fingerplays to prepare your 3 year-old to 6 year-old for starting Preschool or Kindergarten.



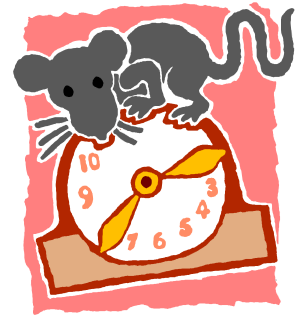
Family Storytime:

WEDNESDAYS

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

January 10—March 28, 2007

Stories in Spanish and English, for children 3 to 7 years old.



Many Ripples Make Waves

As many service clubs and Burlington businesses step up and make large donations to the Burlington Library Foundation, it's important to remember that the Library serves individuals—and even individuals can make a difference in providing excellent library service for generations to come.

You may be aware that our new library is going to be bigger than the existing one—a lot bigger, as a matter of fact. We're moving from 4,000 square feet to 22,000 square feet, enough to last us the next 20 years or more. It's going to be a big change for all of us—it'll mean more computers, study tables and comfy chairs for you, and a lot more legwork for staff as we hustle to answer your questions throughout the new space.

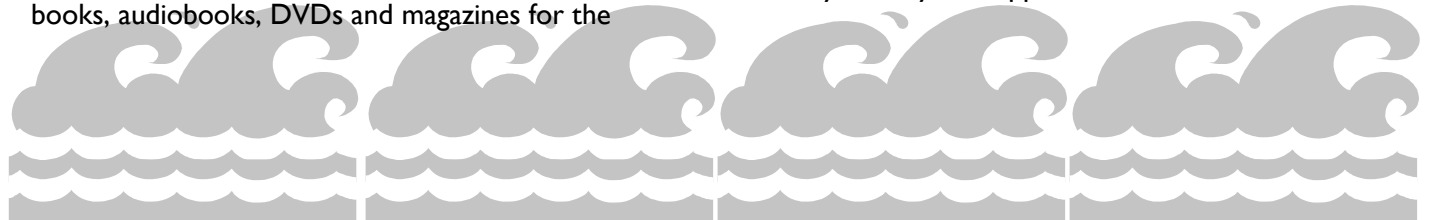
All this room to grow will also mean that for the first several years, our shelves are going to seem very empty—emptier still when all our wonderful new materials get snapped up like hotcakes in the first few weeks we're open. That's where you come in. Your donation—\$25, \$50, \$100, whatever you can afford, will help build a collection endowment. We'll use proceeds from our endowment investments to supplement city funding for new books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines for the

library collection. This will help us keep current with new materials and make sure we have the items you want to borrow.

Our “Buy-a-Book” program works like this: for every \$25 you donate to the Burlington Library Foundation, we'll give you a custom bookplate with your name on it. When the new library opens, you simply find a book on our shelves that you'd like to “buy” and a staff member will stick the bookplate into it. Since the books on the shelves have will have already been purchased, your contributions will go to the Foundation to offset future book orders.

We are also offering a “Buy-a-Shelf” program: for \$100, you can have a shelf named in your honor. This is another great way to show your community that you care about the literacy and lifelong learning opportunities that your library provides.

Every donation to the Burlington Library Foundation is tax deductible; donations of \$500 or more will be recognized on the Donor Wall in the library lobby. Please mail checks to the Burlington Public Library at 900 East Fairhaven Avenue, Burlington, WA 98233. Thank you for your support!



MAJOR DONORS—*continued from Page 4*

On behalf of the Library Foundation, thanks to all who have donated so generously. All donors pledging \$500 or more will be included on our Donor Wall in the lobby of the new library. Named gifts will also be recognized throughout the library as applicable.

Additional donors will be announced in upcoming newsletters. There's still time for your business or family to leave a lasting legacy with a named gift—simply contact Christine Perkins at 360-755-0760 or cperkins@ci.burlington.wa.us for details.



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Public Works

STREET DEPARTMENT

The Street Department completed several street projects this summer. You may have noticed a new street surface on west Fairhaven from Cleveland Street to Norris Street. The City used reflector type buttons instead of paint and the nighttime driving is much improved and should provide for safer night visibility. Also several sections of sidewalks with wheelchair ramps were replaced on both sides of Fairhaven this year as part of an ongoing replacement project.

There is a new crosswalk on Skagit Street in front of Lucille Umbarger School. The latest technology has been installed at the new crosswalk. Children can activate flashing yellow lights by the push of a button on each side of the crosswalk. These signs are solar powered and will greatly improve the safety of residents wishing to cross the street in front of Lucille Umbarger School. Solar powered flashing speed reading signs and school zone signs have also been installed. The speed reading signs will flash the speed of vehicles traveling in front of the school alerting motorists when they exceed 20 mph when school is in session and 25 mph at all other times.

Whitmarsh Road improvements under Old 99 Bridge have been completed. The temporary traffic signal was removed and traffic control markings were installed. Most work was done at night by the contractor with much needed assistance from the Burlington Street Department. All changes have greatly improved the flow of traffic in this area.

Holly Street around the construction of our new library is showing some fancy new curb and street improvements. Landscaping areas are not completed yet but will be ready when the new library is completed.

ENGINEERING

A new storage facility at the site of the old City Shop at Railroad Avenue and Sharon Street is underway. The old buildings on the site have been removed and construction of the new building will be starting soon. This metal building (approx. 5,000 s.f.) will be used by the Police, Fire and Buildings and Grounds Departments for general storage.

The City is still working with the Department of Transportation on the Nevitt Road improvements. It appears that we are getting closer to a resolution. However, the original estimate for the project has escalated from \$1.2 million to \$4.3 million dollars for construction alone, not counting right of way and design. Since the bill has increase 3-4 fold beyond what the City expected, it seems reasonable for our Washington State Legislature to provide the City with some relief. The City has decided to hire lobbyist, Ryan Pennington, to help facilitate negotiations with our Legislature.

A Gages Slough Habitat Management Study is being conducted by Otak, Inc. of Kirkland, Washington. This study will identify the best places in the slough to provide wetland enhancement projects, which will help clean Gages Slough. Gages Slough runs through Burlington from Peacock Road to Pulver Road Pump Station and then into the Skagit River. It is a valuable resource for habitat and must be protected from possible contamination.

The Engineering Department has been observing a very slow deterioration on the north side of Hillcrest Drive over the past few years. This road extends over Burlington Hill connecting to North Hill Boulevard in the Burlington Hill Business Park. A study was done by Zipper/Zeman to determine the cause of the problem and how it can be fixed. The City is working with contractors to repair this road so you may have noticed the north end of the road is closed.

A new street is now under construction that will connect Andis Road and Lila Lane and will be called Fenton Lane. Haggen Grocery will be funding this project and it should be completed soon.

The City received a \$2 million dollar grant from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board to improve North Burlington Boulevard from Avon Street to Chuckanut Drive. This \$2,700,000 project will widen the street and provide improved pedestrian/bicycle accessibility. Of interest is that the City is considering installing a roundabout near the north end of the high school because the state is also looking at a roundabout at the Chuckanut interchange. Watch for a public informational meeting on this concept in December.

Along with the North Burlington Boulevard Improvements is a new North Burlington Regional Stormwater Facility. It will include a regional stormwater detention pond, a gravity main running to the west (connecting to the future North Burlington Blvd. stormwater conveyance system), a lift station located near the pond, and a force main and gravity main running to the south (connecting to the City stormwater system). The intended general service area is bounded by North Burlington Blvd. on the west side, Fountain Street on the north side, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) tracks on the east side, and Avon Avenue (SR-20) at the sound end. Service will also include stormwater runoff from North Burlington Boulevard (as will be improved by the North Burlington Boulevard Improvement Project) between Avon Avenue (SR-20) and Old Highway 99 and potentially two parcels west of North Burlington Boulevard (including the future SKAT park and ride). The majority of this project will be constructed next summer 2007.

Continued on next page

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds Department has been working diligently to improve the condition and looks of the City's buildings and landscaped areas. The downtown flower baskets this summer were outstanding due to the daily watering by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Also you may have noticed the Senior Center received new outside siding and paint inside and out. Christmas decorations will go up the first week after Thanksgiving.

The Yard Waste Recycling Center, located at 951 S. Section Street, is closed for the winter season.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

The existing sanitary sewer pump station #1, located on West Victoria Avenue near Cleveland Street, was recently replaced due to its age. After experiencing many unforeseen difficulties the project was completed. The project contractor encountered unexpected soil conditions, unsuitable for supporting the wet well. The fix for this was to drive piles below the wet well to support it, a proven effective method when subsurface conditions are unknown. The wet well is now set and in operation.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL December 25 – January 15

Residents living within the city limits of Burlington may haul their Christmas tree to the City's Recycling Center located at 951 S. Section Street from *December 25 through January 15, 2007.*



Notes from the Finance Department

Leaves are falling and the holidays are near. November has certainly arrived! Beginning with your **November/December** utility bill, the City of Burlington residential sewer charges will be based on actual water usage, as supplied by PUD No. 1 of Skagit County. Please be sure to notify the Utility Billing Department if you have any significant changes in your water usage, i.e. occupancy, water leak, snow-birds, etc.

As you know, the City offers a Direct Debit *Autopay* option to pay your utility bills. Thank you to all

who are currently participating! We have approximately 180 accounts currently signed up and would welcome more. Autopay is a simple and worry-free way to pay your bill on time, without the five (5) day waiting period of online Bill Pay. (You will never have a late fee again!) Call City Hall @ 755-0531 for more information or go to our web site at www.ci.burlington.wa.us and download the information letter and agreement. You will find it under **City Services/Sewer Billing/Authorization Agreement for Direct Payment** fill it out, attach a VOIDED check or savings withdrawal slip and mail it back to 900 East Fairhaven Ave., Burlington WA 98233.

Please note that the agreement can not be processed without the original signature.

We have successfully added the convenience of paying your utility bill with Credit and/or Debit Cards over the phone or in person. We now accept Visa and Mastercard Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Please remember to allow a few extra days for the mailing of your utility payments during the holiday season. We also offer a drive-up drop box outside City Hall for your convenience.



WHAT A SUCCESS!

October 13, 14, 15, 2006

There is something for everyone! Look at what our 2006 Event Schedule held:

Kiwanis Blues in the Barn
Burlington Fire Hall

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Fine Art, Antique, & Gift Show
Burlington Community Ctr.

Pumpkin Pitch
Skagit River Park

Taste of Pumpkin Contest
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Free Family Events
Skagit River Park

Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in
Skagit River Park

Good Times Rock-n-Roll Family Dinner & Dance
Common Ground

Even more is planned for 2007! Mark your calendars now for the 2007 Harvest Festival & Pumpkin Pitch:
▶▶September 29, 2007◀◀

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...a flying pumpkin?

The Burlington Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Pitch is a testament to our local farming heritage. We celebrated the seasons hard work with a weekend of good ole fashioned fun!

On Friday night, the **Kiwanis Blues in the Barn** kicked off event for adults only. Folks jammed to Becky Sue and her Big Rockin' Daddies and the Double Barrel BBQ served up their finger lickin' good ribs and fixin's. Next year they are moving their event to Saturday night (September 29, 2007) for whoopin it up! You won't want to miss it.

On Saturday, the **Pumpkin Pitch** drew crowds from as far north as Canada, as far south as Oregon. We even had visitors from Illinois! The Pumpkin Pitch is the West Coast's **one and only** Pumpkin Hurling Competition around! We had teams from Langley, B.C., Sedro Woolley, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Everett this year. Although the World Record breaker TreBarbaric team didn't break the World Record, they still threw an amazing 1382.9 feet! Considering that the first team in 2003 threw 887 feet.

Go to www.thehurl.org to download your own plans for a trebuchet to compete in 2007. We are really encouraging kids to start building for the '07 Youth Division.

Food vendors, Free Kids Activities, Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in, Zucchini Races, and more can be found at the park on Saturday, September 29, 2007.

Don't miss out on the Fine Art, Antique, and Gift Show put on by local artisans at the Burlington Community Center on Saturday and Sunday (9/29 & 9/30, 2007). And admire the winners from the Scarecrow Contest lining Downtown Burlington.

FREE ▪ FAMILY ▪ FUN

THANK YOU, SPONSORS:

- Northern Lights Casino
- KAPS 660 ▪ KBRC 1430
- Frazier Farms ▪ Wagons West
- Stowe's Shoes and Clothing
- Leonard, Boudinot, & Skodje
- Fred Meyer ▪ Frontier Bank
- Soroptimists of Burlington
- Venture Club of Burlington
- Frontier Building Supply
- Skagit Farmers Supply
 - Rose & Thistle
 - Manresa Castle
- Garrison Engineering
- Skagit Surveyors
- Printwise, Inc.
- Brock Designs
- Burlington Parks Foundation

Giant Pumpkin Weigh-in Results



Kids and Adults alike plant those seeds and plan to bring your "most humungous" pumpkin to Skagit River Park in 2007.

1st place winners: Steve Radich and Geoff Gould with their giant 747 pound pumpkin.

Pumpkin Pitch Results

COMPETITIVE DIVISION:

1st Trebarbaric, Sedro Woolley, WA 1382.9 ft.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION:

1st Gourdinator, Sedro Woolley, WA 853.9 ft.

2nd Mixed Nuts, Everett, WA 515.8 ft.

3rd UFO, Burlington, WA 378.6 ft.

4th Trebasaurus, Mt. Vernon, WA 287.8 ft.

5th Ally Oop, Langley, BC 282.1 ft.

BEST OVERALL:

Machine Design: Gourdinator

Team Presentation: Gourdinator

Machine Engineering: Mixed Nuts

Team Sportsmanship: Mixed Nuts

Grand Champion: Gourdinator



Team Gourdinator with special guest, Billy Martin after defending their title for 1st Place in the Recreation Division with a throw of 853.9 feet.



Team Trebarbaric in full costume working the crowd during public viewing time.

Downtown Business Scarecrow Building Contest Results



1st Place
Rose & Thistle

2nd Place (tie)
Skagit State Bank
Cork & Cellar



◀ Team UFO

▼ Team Mixed Nuts



The Burlington Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Pitch is co-organized by the City of Burlington Parks & Recreation and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.



The Shire of Midhaven Group entertained the crowds between activities!



Taste of Pumpkin Cooking Contest



1st Place

Appetizer, Cakes & Pies,
Cookies and Breads,
Entrée, Soups/Sauces/
Glaze, and Overall
Winner— Lorraine Fritsch

Mayor's Message—continued from Page 1

Where is Flood Hazard Reduction in Burlington Headed?



Before the new flood maps become effective, a public meeting is held to describe the findings. Following issuance of the findings, there is a 90-day appeal period to appeal to the Federal Insurance Administrator. This goes on an appeals docket in Washington DC and is heard by an administrative hearing judge, with the next step of appeal to a Federal District Court. Following the Final Determination and the Official Letter, Burlington has 6 months to adopt.

And that is where we stand today. All positive steps toward flood hazard reduction are on hold, except for the on-going work in Burlington by Dike District #12 and the routine preparations for the flood season.

The new Burlington Public Works Director, Chal Martin, is taking every possible step to make the case to the federal agencies with jurisdiction to reconsider their position and come together with local jurisdictions to actually implement flood hazard mitigation programs on the ground that are economically feasible.

The argument that destroying the local economy is a positive solution is pretty tough to swallow.

Highlights of 20 Years of Flood Hazard Mitigation in Burlington

January 3, 1985	100 year base flood elevations were set in order to regularize the flood insurance program after years of debate and compromise. A conventional floodway was not appropriate for the Skagit River delta and instead, flow paths for floodwaters would be maintained, such as the Gages Slough corridor, and preserving farmland in open space.
1990 flood	A hard fought victory for Burlington with many lessons learned about how to fight the flood along the Railroad tracks east of Burlington, where the weak spots in levees were allowing water to boil up on the land side of the dike. Damage occurred when the floodwater that was diverted into Gages Slough went into an opening in the sanitary sewer line that runs from Monroe Street down Section Street. The line sucked in a lot of sand and water and eventually sandblasted both the pumps in Pump Station #4, then collapsed. The culverts in Gages Slough were mostly plugged and it took several days to pump the water over the intersections and out to the Skagit River.
1994 Community Rating System	The City joined the Community Rating System in 1994 in order to get a reduction in flood insurance rates, developed a city specific Flood Emergency Plan, adopted the Gages Slough Management Plan in 1999 after a thorough citizen involvement process, then in 2002 completed and implemented a citywide Evacuation Plan. The adoption of an aggressive Storm Water Management Plan and Utility specifically resulted in upgrade of the pump station at the end of Gages Slough, improving our ability to remove floodwaters if the need arises.
1995 flood	Just elected, Mayor Gus Tjeerdsma coordinated the flood fight along SR 20 east of Burlington including hauling sandbags to the Railroad tracks on a rail car from the Dike District building, taking lessons learned in 1990 to heart. Again, a successful flood fight and only one flooded home that had to be elevated, on Bouslog Road. The great lesson learned was the buildup of debris at the Railroad Bridge that resulted in the collapse of one structural support for the railroad tracks, and the dangerous undermining of the base of Dike District 17's levee (Mount Vernon side), again caused by the buildup of debris.

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Library—continued from Page 5

Will You Be Our Friend?

Remember the old saying, “The only way to have a friend is to be a friend”? Well, you can make friends and support your library at the same time by joining the Friends of the Burlington Library and helping out with our semi-annual book sales in April and October. These two events have raised over \$2,000 a year for the library but require dozens of volunteer hours sorting donated books, advertising the sale, and staffing the sale. Our core Friends group is dedicated but we need your help! There are only a few of us and we can’t do it all. We’re considering holding only two

“live” meetings a year and conducting other business via e-mail—so you won’t have to attend lots of meetings. We can hold book sorting sessions during the day, in the evening, or on Saturdays, whenever is convenient for you! You’ll meet others who share a passion for books and have fun putting on the “best little book sale in Skagit”.

In the past, the Friends have purchased books for Summer Reading prizes, fridge magnets for all new library cardholders, audiobooks and DVDs to supplement the

collection, and many other vital items. The Friends also sponsor our bi-monthly Brown Bag Booktalks and author visits. Call Janice Burwash today at 360-755-0760 or e-mail jburwash@ci.burlington.wa.us if you’re interested in getting involved.



Continued from Page 10

1997 Acquisition of National Foods Spray Fields – now Skagit River Park	The Mayor and Dike District Commissioner Chuck Bennett toured the flooded river by boat and came up with the idea for a flood hazard mitigation plan, that included buying the National Foods spray fields (now Skagit River Park), redesigning the levees so they would gradually overtop with a sheet flow of water, rather than blow out, and to create a secondary levee system that would provide additional flood storage. The application for federal grant funding was not approved, but the city took the situation seriously and acquired the land so that the dikes could be improved, through an interlocal agreement between the City and the Dike District. The Dike District has been working on upgrading the levee structure nonstop with installation of clay keyways, widening the top of the levees and adding a long gradual backslope to make sure that the levees overtop with a sheet flow instead of having a major blowout failure.
The Corps of Engineers General Investigation (aka endless studies)	During the same general timeline, the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency had been developing a plan of action for countywide flood damage reduction, and that led to the 1993 Reconnaissance Report on the feasibility of reducing flood damage through a series of measures. All was positive, and the doors opened to providing extensive funding for studies. Burlington participated in the process, but the city’s concerns generally fell on deaf ears, as more studies were published in 2002.
2003 – Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan	Working together with all cities, towns, the county and special districts, Burlington and Dike District #12 play a key role in the Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning program. The plan is not just a plan, it is a work program that gets done.
2007? Federal Emergency Management Agency LIKELY raises 100-year Base Flood Elevations using Corps of Engineers work	A 240,000 cubic foot per second flood reaches the valley floor and heads straight for Burlington creating 6 feet of water standing on I-5 – is this even possible?

PARKS & RECREATION



North Pole Workshop

Want to make your own presents this year? We'll keep you super busy making homemade presents for your friends and family. Just in time to wrap them up and put under the tree. Register quickly space is limited. Pack yourself a lunch and dress to mess!

DAYS: Friday
DATE: December 22
TIME: 9:30 am—2:00 pm
AGES: 6-12 yrs
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 12
FEE: \$35
LOCATION: 219 S. Skagit Street
INSTRUCTOR: Christi Kinney and Krissa Collins

Camp Holidaze

We've planned some really COOL activities that are sure to WARM your smile. This Winter Break we're gonna have a "Tropical Adventure". Together we'll surf local hot spots, make tasty treats, and play those silly reindeer games. Hang-loose! Pack a lunch.

DAY: Wednesday-Friday
DATE: December 27-29
TIME: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
AGES: 7-12 yrs
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 14
FEE: \$75
LOCATION: 219 S. Skagit Street
INSTRUCTOR: Christi Kinney and Staff



Dream, Discover, Soar



You'll never learn more about aviation in one place than you will when you visit the Museum of Flight. The Museum's collection

includes more than 150 historically significant air- and spacecraft. Come and have a supersonic experience with us! Pack a lunch.

DAY: Tuesday
DATE: January 2
TIME: 9:00am—4:00pm
AGES: 7-12 yrs
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 14
FEE: \$30 includes admission & transportation
LOCATION: Meet at the Rec. office-900 E. Fairhaven
TRIP LEADERS: Christi Kinney and Staff



Gross Out!

Are you fascinated by worms, slime, stinky smells, and more? We're heading to the Science Center in Seattle to see their exhibit Gross Out. It's a scientific look at stuff usually thought of as disgusting, everything from burps and blisters to dog breath and elephant poo. Pretty sweet huh? Wait 'til you see the games we have planned for car ride up! Pack a lunch.

DAY: Monday
DATE: Feb. 19
TIME: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
AGES: 7-12 yrs
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 14
FEE: Youth \$30 includes admission into the PSC for the day, parking, and transportation
LOCATION: Meet at the BPR office-900 E. Fairhaven Avenue
TRIP LEADERS: Christi Kinney and Ben Davidson

Teens!

Winterfest-Seattle

Spend the day downtown and finish your last minute holiday shopping. Go Ice Skating at Seattle Center's Ice Rink, grab lunch, and then shop 'til you drop at Westlake Center and downtown.

DAY: Thursday
DATE: December 21
TIME: 9:00 am—5:00 pm
AGES: 12-17 yrs
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 14
FEE: \$25
LOCATION: Meet at the BPR office, 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue
TRIP LEADERS: Christi Kinney and Krissa Collins



Gameworks-Seattle

Test your game skills at Gameworks-there's no school on Jan 29 for 7th -12th graders in B-ESD. We'll also spend some time exploring downtown. Bring a lunch, raingear, and a water bottle.

DAY: Monday
DATE: January 29
TIME: 9:30 am—4:00 pm
AGES: 7th-12th graders
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 14
FEE: \$30
LOCATION: Meet at the BPR office, 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue
TRIP LEADERS: Christi Kinney and Ben Davidson



INSANE FOR TRAINS! Be a part of a Northwest family tradition at the **33rd Annual Model Railroad Show** held at the Pacific Science Center. The "Loco Doctor" has a repair station to help fix your "sick" locomotive. See all your favorite layouts of various scales, ride a kid-sized choo choo, learn all about train safety, and enjoy many other fun train related activities! Pack a lunch or bring lunch money.

DATE: January 15 (MLK Day)
TIME: 9:00 am—5:00 pm
AGES: 4 and up (under 12 must be accompanied by an adult)
DAY: Monday
CLASS SIZE: Min 6/Max 15
FEE: Adult \$35/Youth \$30 includes admission into the PSC for the day, parking, and transportation.

LOCATION: Meet at BPR office - 900 E. Fairhaven Ave.
TRIP LEADERS: Ben Davidson & Krissa Collins



Burlington Late Night Gym

Saturdays 7 pm--11 pm the Gym is open for youth ages 12 years to 12th grade.

Stop by the BEHS Field House for FREE basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer. Snacks, contest (bump and 3 point) all under the supervision of Burlington Recreation Staff.

Positive, safe environment... come check it out!

Sponsored by Burlington Parks and Recreation, BESD, Burlington Parents Community Network, and B-E Kiwanis Club.



CONNECTIONZ



Daddy & Daughter Day

Saturday, February 10

Take your little girl on a special date to the Seattle Children's Theatre to see *Afternoon of the Elves*. Based on the book by Janet Taylor Lisle, this is the tale of Hillary whose neighbor, Sara Kate, has elves living in her backyard among other secrets. Through twist and turns, these two brave girls learn that every child needs an adult to look after them, and they all deserve the comfort and safety of home.

AGES: 7 & up, COST: \$78/parent & child, \$25 each additional child. *Fee covers transportation and admission.*

MINIMUM of 6 parent/child needed two weeks prior (Jan 26). We'll depart at 10:30 am, return by 6pm.



Classes-

Creative Flow Yoga Class



Class is practiced in "flow" style, integrating an eclectic blend of traditional hatha yoga poses, with emphases on breath and inner awareness. Open to all levels.

DATES: Every Thursday
TIME: 5:30 pm--6:45 pm
AGES: 13 & up
CLASS SIZE: Min 5/Max 15
FEE: \$30 monthly block (due 1st Thurs. of month) or \$10 Drop-in fee
LOCATION: Burlington Community Center
INSTRUCTOR: Sherry Thorsten



Mother & Son Hang Time

Saturday, February 24

Whirly Ball in Edmonds is a BLAST! Spend some time with your son on his level-you'll be the coolest Mom on the block! Whirly Ball is a combination of Basketball, Hockey, and Jai-Alai played while riding a "bumper car". In one hand the player has a plastic scoop and in the other hand is the steering crank. The ball being tossed around is a softball sized whiffle ball-SWEET!

AGES: 8 & up, COST: \$80/parent & child, \$25 each additional child. *Fee covers transportation and admission fees.*

MINIMUM of 6 parent/child needed two weeks prior (Feb. 10). We'll depart at 10:00 am, return by 4:00 pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

MEET at the Burlington Community Center parking lot.

TRIP LEADERS: Burlington P & R Staff

~ Scrapbooking with Michele Schmidt ~

☞ ☞ **Friday Night Drop-in Crops 6 pm—Midnight** Just think how much you will get done if you just dedicated 2 nights per month? You'd be pleasantly surprised. Learn how simple and fun preserving your stories and photos can be. Our instructor will provide tips, information and inspiration. Supplies available at class. Held on Friday nights (dates listed below) at the Burlington Community Center from 6:00 pm—Midnight, drop-in for \$5. (*Registration and payment available day of, but early registration is preferred for both drop-ins and workshops*)

☞ ☞ **Friday Night Workshops * 7:00 pm with additional "Bonus" workshops on special dates.** *Pre-register for workshops with Michele at cropalatte@verizon.net or by calling our office at 755-9649.

Dec. 15: Who doesn't have a ton of Christmas pictures to try and get on a layout? This workshop is designed to help you get 12+ pictures on your pages. \$12.50

Dec. 15: **GIFT GIVING BONUS WORKSHOP** After this workshop you will walk away with a piece of wall art showcasing a 12x12 layout and your favorite holiday picture \$15

Jan. 5: Welcome the New Year by taking a walk down memory land! Use decorative scissors, templates, and other blasts from the past in a "new" way. \$12.50

Jan. 19 Ribbon Rage—use ribbon in three different ways to make your layout pop! Pink and neutral options available. \$12.50

☞ ☞ **Scrapbooking All Day Crops — January 20 — "Beat Those Winter Blues"** Come and scrapbook, we'll take care of your meals, beverages, offer you a class or two, and you'll even receive some free gifts! There are raffle drawings all day, contests, and Scrapbooking supplies available to purchase so you'll never have to leave...you don't want to miss this! Registration MUST be received one week prior. Spots fill up fast, so register EARLY.

Option #1 8 am-8 pm \$40 —OR— Option #2 8 am-2 pm \$25 —OR— Option #3 2pm-8pm \$25

☞ ☞ Want to "see" the workshops up to a week prior! Send your email address to skinney@ci.burlington.wa.us to be added to our distribution list..

Senior Center

The Burlington Senior Center is located in Maiben Park in the Community Building, just south of the Burlington Library and the City offices, at the corner of Regent Street and Greenleaf Avenue. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch is served at noon. Contact us at **755-0102**.

The Burlington Senior Center encourages seniors to become acquainted with our center—there are many opportunities to expand one's social, educational and health needs. Classes of many different kinds are offered. Information on senior issues and outreach services is available and prospects for volunteering and making a difference in other senior's lives are encouraged.



Computer classes are offered each month. Art classes are very popular. From basic drawing, to advanced watercolor there is an art class that should interest you. Classes are offered regularly in geology and Spanish. AARP driving classes are offered quarterly.

There are lots of games and entertainment available throughout the week. Pinochle is played on Wednesdays and beginning pinochle is offered on Friday afternoons.

There is a good sized bridge group that plays on Friday afternoons as well. Cribbage is played on Wednesday mornings. Skip Bo, Triominos, Mexican Train Dominoes, and Rummikub have a strong following on Tuesday afternoons. A Hand and Foot card game is played Thursdays. The Old Time Fiddlers play every third Monday of the month.



The Burlington Senior Center often hosts talks and presentations on many topics including health and finances. Senior Information and Assistance provides information monthly by a scheduled visit and with updated informational sheets on many topics that include senior housing, legal questions, prescription drugs, and Medicare part D.

For those interested in health, we offer a large variety of support. A Monday morning weight loss group meets and discusses the importance of a healthy diet. A Laughing Yoga group meets Mondays. On the first Tuesday of the month, the Low Vision Support Group meets. Tai Chi is offered Wednesday mornings and free blood pressure screenings are held monthly. An Adaptive Yoga class for people with Multiple Sclerosis and chronic pain is available Thursdays. An occasional CPR and first aid class are offered.

The senior nutrition program is a very important aspect of the Senior Center. We serve excellent, homemade lunches



Monday through Friday at noon. The suggested donation for a senior (age 60 and over) is \$3.00. Non-seniors are welcome at \$5.00. The Meals on Wheels program is available to homebound seniors in the Burlington area. *Ensure* is available by the case at a reduced donation to help seniors who need additional nutritional support.

The Burlington Senior Center is the focal point for seniors in the Burlington community. The activities, classes and nutrition program are designed to help Burlington seniors cope with everyday stresses and improve their quality of life. Please feel welcome to stop by the Center and explore the offering here.

Are You A Smart Shopper?

Police agencies throughout Skagit County are handing out yellow placards which can be hung



from the car's rear view mirror. The outward facing side says **"NO VALUABLES INSIDE"** while the flip side reminds the driver about removing valuables from view.

As the Holiday shopping season gets into full swing it important to remember that while you are doing your shopping the crooks are looking into your vehicles in hopes of obtaining their own Christmas present...provided by you. Breaking into cars parked in large parking lots is a very significant problem, not only in Burlington but in the rest of the towns as well. The yellow placard tells crooks that you don't have anything worth stealing in your car, but more importantly it reminds you to remove things of value. The more things that you do to protect yourself the less likely you are to be victimized. Some things that you can do to protect yourself during the holiday season include:

☑ Do not leave anything of value in your car even if the view is obstructed by placing a blanket or coat over it. Packages and presents, (and things like cell phones, wallets, CD's, purses etc.) should be placed in the trunk.

☑ Park in lighted areas and **LOCK THE DOORS.**

☑ Don't leave keys in the ignition, even if you only plan to be gone a minute. On these cold days the idea of warming your car up while you sit inside a nice warm building may sound appealing until you come back and find your vehicle gone.

☑ Remember that when strangers approach you they may try to steal directly from you (purse grab) or they may try to distract you while an accomplice commits the theft.

☑ Instead of shopping alone, go with a friend or family member so that you can return to your vehicle together. One person is an easier target of crime.

☑ Don't carry large sums of cash. Use a credit card or checks and carry identification.

☑ If you choose to get cash from an ATM be aware of your surroundings and never carry the PIN written down on your person.

By trying to prevent crime before it happens by removing temptations from view you are likely to save yourself from being victimized.

Have a safe and happy Christmas.



Placards are available at Burlington City Hall and Police Department.



Check out our new Website

www.ci.burlington.wa.us



900 E. Fairhaven Avenue
Burlington WA 98233

Phone: 360-755-0531
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E-mail: cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us

Serving you with pride!

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www.ci.burlington.wa.us